

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for an ordering and payment allocation system comprising the acts of:

receiving one or more orders from at least one

buyer, each of the orders corresponding to at least one

5 seller subsidiary;

consolidating the orders into a consolidated invoice;

making the consolidated invoice available to the at least one buyer;

10 receiving an indication from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a payment is being approved; and

allocating the payment to a corresponding at least one seller subsidiary for which the payment has been made.

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2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the orders are received electronically.

3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

4. The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book

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the order.

5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been

~~evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits;~~

5 and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

6. The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

5 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the availability of the consolidated invoice;

distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

12. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein the indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

14. The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

15. The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing

house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange
trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an
5 electronic wallet and a check.

17. The method according to Claim 15, further
----- comprising the act of updating a payment master database, -----
the payment master database comprising records having:
a payment date;
5 a payment method;
a payment reference;
a payment amount;
a from currency;
a to currency;
10 f/x, tax and fee data;
a distribution status; and
an amount distributed.

18. The method according to Claim 15, further
comprising the act of processing the received payment.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein the
act of processing the received payment is comprised of at
least one of the acts of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to
5 gather payment data into consolidated receivables data
for a single report;

matching the consolidated receivables data to an
outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched
data to the seller;

10 providing complete accounts receivable processing,
the act of providing complete accounts receivable
processing comprising the acts of:

 receiving the matched data;

 applying the merged and consolidated

15 ~~receivables data to create accounts receivable and~~
general ledger update data; and

 updating a general ledger corresponding to the
seller.

20. The method according to Claim 19, wherein the
payment data gathered into the single report during the
consolidated receivables process is received from a
plurality of service providers.

21. The method according to Claim 13, wherein the
allocation act is comprised of the acts of:

 receiving the authorized payment;

5 disaggregating the received payment to associate
portions of the received payment with one or more selling
sub-entities;

 processing the received payment to update an
accounts receivable system;

 generating at least one funding report;

10 delivering the at least one funding report to the
respective sub-entities; and

 transferring the disaggregated funds to financial
accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

22. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

23. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the funding report comprises:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;

5 a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and
reason codes.

24. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

receiving the payment;
determining an incremental funding amount;
5 funding a subsidiary corresponding to the holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceed a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

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25. An ordering and payment allocation system,

comprising:

an order management system, the order management system:

5 receiving at least one order from a buying organization having at least one buyer;

~~evaluating the at least one order against one~~
or more criteria, orders which meet the one or more criteria being approved orders;

10 booking the approved orders;

generating a consolidated invoice based on the approved orders;

making the consolidated invoice available to the buying organization; and

15 receiving an approval indication from the buying organization, the approval indication including an identification of those booked orders for which payment is authorized;

20 a funds distribution system, the funds distribution system facilitating the distribution of the authorized payment received from the buying organization.

26. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the orders are received electronically.

27. The system according to Claim 26, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

28. The system according to Claim 25 wherein the evaluating act comprises evaluating the received order

5 against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to
at least one buyer and an available credit limit
corresponding to the buyer organization to determine
whether to book the order.

29. ~~The system according to Claim 25, wherein the~~
order management system further performs the function of
creating a receivable entry in a seller account
receivable system.

30. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the
invoice consolidation generation function is comprised of
the functions of sorting and compiling the booked orders
to create a single invoice.

31. The system according to Claim 30, wherein the
compiling function includes formatting booked orders
received from different buying organizations into a
common format.

32. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the
consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-
invoice data being data which corresponds to booked
orders placed by a respective buyer.

33. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the
function of making the consolidated invoice available
includes sending an electronic message to the buyer to
notify the buyer of the availability of the consolidated

5 invoice.

34. The system method according to Claim 25,
wherein the order management system further causes the
consolidated invoice to be displayed on a buyer terminal

5 ~~and wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice~~
items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the
buyer terminal.

35. The system according to Claim 34, wherein the
indication includes entering a code corresponding to a
reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-
invoice item.

36. The system according to Claim 34, wherein the
order management system receives a payment from the
buyer.

37. The system according to Claim 36, wherein the
payment is received via one of an automated clearing
house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange
trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an
5 electronic wallet and a check.

38. The system according to Claim 36, wherein the
order management system is comprised of a payment master
database, the payment master database comprising records
having:

5 a payment date;

10 a payment method;
a payment reference;
a payment amount;
a from currency;
a to currency;
f/x, tax and fee data;
a distribution status; and
an amount distributed.

39. The system according to Claim 36, wherein the order management system processes the received payment.

40. The system method according to Claim 39, wherein processing the received payment includes at least one of:

5 performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;

matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller;

10 providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:

receiving the matched data;

15 applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and

updating a general ledger corresponding to the

seller.

41. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the funds distribution system performs functions which include:

~~generating at least one funding report;~~

5 delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and

transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

42. The system according to Claim 41, wherein the funding report comprises:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;

5 a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and
reason codes.

43. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system comprises an Internet web site.

44. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the order management system comprises a division profile database, the division profile database having records having:

5 an identification code;
a subsidiary name;

10 a subsidiary address;
 a subsidiary contact individual;
 a subsidiary bank SWIFT code or ABA RTN;
 a subsidiary bank account reference; and
 a seller's general ledger account number.

5 45. The system according to Claim 25, wherein the
order management system comprises an invoice master
database, the invoice master database comprising
consolidated invoice data records and corresponding sub-
invoice data records.

5 46. The system according to Claim 45, wherein the
consolidated invoice data records have:
 an invoice date;
 a customer reference;
 a consolidated invoice reference number;
 a total invoice amount;
 an invoice amount paid;
 an invoice adjustment amount;
 an invoice amount outstanding; and
10 an invoice amount distributed.

5 47. The system according to Claim 45, wherein the
sub-invoice data records have:
 a subsidiary code;
 an invoice reference;
 an invoice amount;
 an invoice amount paid;

an invoice adjustment amount;
an invoice amount outstanding; and
an invoice amount distributed.

48. An order management system using a
~~communication network to support at least one selling~~
entity and one or more unaffiliated buying organizations,
the order management system comprising:

- 5 a database;
 a network interface coupled to the communication
network;
 a processor, the processor executing functions which
include:
- 10 receiving at least one order from a buying
organization having at least one buyer;
 evaluating the at least one order against one
or more criteria, orders which meet the one or more
criteria being approved orders;
- 15 generating a consolidated invoice based on the
approved orders;
 making the consolidated invoice available to
the buying organization; and
 receiving an approval indication from the
- 20 buying organization, the approval indication including an
identification those approved orders for which payment is
authorized.

49. The order management system according to Claim

48, wherein the orders are received electronically.

50. The order management system according to Claim 49, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

~~51. The order management system according to Claim~~
48, wherein the criteria include at least one of a
spending limit corresponding to the buyer and an
available credit limit corresponding to the buyer
5 corresponding buying organization to determine whether to
book the order.

52. The order management system according to Claim 51, wherein the order management system books those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits creates a
5 receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

53. The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the consolidation function includes sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

54. The order management system according to Claim 53, wherein the compilation includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

55. The order management system according to Claim

48, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

56. The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the consolidated invoice is made available by at least one of:

5 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the availability of the consolidated invoice; and

transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

57. The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the database comprises a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

5 a payment date;
a payment method;
a payment reference;
a payment amount;
a from currency;
10 a to currency;
f/x, tax and fee data;
a distribution status; and
an amount distributed.

58. The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the order management system receives the authorized payment and processes the received payment.

59. The order management system according to Claim 58, wherein the processor function further comprises allocating the received payment, allocating the received payment including:

5 disaggregating the received payment to associate

portions of the received payment with one or more selling
sub-entities;

 processing the received payment to update an
accounts receivable system;

10 generating at least one funding report;

 delivering the at least one funding report to the
respective sub-entities; and

 transferring the disaggregated funds to financial
accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

60. The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the order management system is arranged to comprise an Internet web site.

61. The order management system according to Claim 49, wherein the database comprises a division profile database, the division profile database having records which include:

5 an identification code;
 a subsidiary name;
 a subsidiary address;
 a subsidiary contact individual;
 a subsidiary bank SWIFT code or ABA RTN;
10 a subsidiary bank account reference; and

a seller's general ledger account number.

62. The order management system according to Claim 48, wherein the database comprises an invoice master database, the invoice master database comprising

~~consolidated invoice data records and corresponding sub-~~
5 invoice data records.

63. The order management system according to Claim 62, wherein the consolidated invoice data records each have:

an invoice date;
5 a customer reference;
a consolidated invoice reference number;
a total invoice amount;
an invoice amount paid;
an invoice adjustment amount;
10 an invoice amount outstanding; and
an invoice amount distributed.

64. The order management system according to Claim 62, wherein the sub-invoice data records each have:

a subsidiary code;
an invoice reference;
5 an invoice amount;
an invoice amount paid;
an invoice adjustment amount;
an invoice amount outstanding; and
an invoice amount distributed.

65. A method for allocating funds received from a buying organization, comprising the acts of:

disaggregating the received funds to associate portions of the received funds with one or more selling sub-entities;

processing the received funds to update an accounts receivable system;

delivering funding reports to the respective sub-entities; and

transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

66. The method according to Claim 65, wherein the transferring act includes the acts of:

determining an incremental funding amount;

funding a subsidiary corresponding to the holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceed a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

67. A storage medium storing computer executable programmatic code for an order management system which, when executed, performs the acts of:

receiving one or more orders from at least one

5 buyer, each of the orders corresponding to at least one seller subsidiary;

consolidating the orders into a consolidated invoice;

making the consolidated invoice available to the at

10 ~~least one buyer;~~

receiving an indication from the at least one buyer as to which of the orders a payment is being authorized.

68. The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the orders are received electronically.

69. The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

70. The storage medium according to Claim 68 further comprising the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit
5 limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the order.

71. The storage medium according to Claim 70, further comprising the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits;

5 and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

72. The storage medium according to Claim 71, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

~~73. The storage medium according to Claim 67,~~
wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

74. The storage medium according to Claim 73, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

75. The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

76. The storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

77. The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

 sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify
5 the buyer of the availability of the consolidated

invoice;

distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

78. The storage medium according to Claim 67,
~~further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated~~
invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates
approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the
5 consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

79. The storage medium according to Claim 78,
wherein the indication includes the act of entering a
code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved
or denied for a sub-invoice item.

80. The storage medium according to Claim 78,
further comprising the step of using the buyer terminal
to authorize payment to the seller.

81. The method according to Claim 78, further
comprising the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

82. The storage medium according to Claim 81,
wherein the payment is received via one of an automated
clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign
exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the
5 Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

83. The storage medium according to Claim 81,

further comprising the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records which include:

- 5 a payment date;
- a payment method;
- ~~-----a payment reference;-----~~
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- 10 a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

84. The storage medium according to Claim 81, further comprising the act of processing the received payment.

85. The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

- 5 performing a consolidated receivables process to
- gather payment data into consolidated receivables data
- for a single report;
- matching the consolidated receivables data to an
- outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched
- data to the seller;
- 10 providing complete accounts receivable processing,
- the act of providing complete accounts receivable
- processing comprising the acts of:

receiving the matched data;
applying the merged and consolidated
15 receivables data to create accounts receivable and
general ledger update data; and
updating a general ledger corresponding to the
seller.

86. The storage medium according to Claim 84,
wherein the payment data gathered into the single report
during the consolidated receivables process is received
from a plurality of service providers.

87. The storage medium according to Claim 79,
wherein the allocation act is comprised of the acts of:
receiving the authorized payment;
disaggregating the received payment to associate
5 portions of the received payment with one or more selling
sub-entities;
processing the received payment to update an
accounts receivable system;
generating at least one funding report;
10 delivering the at least one funding report to the
respective sub-entities; and
transferring the disaggregated funds to financial
accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

88. The storage medium according to Claim 87,
wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of
the act of updating a payment master database to reflect

5 a distribution status and amount distributed to the
corresponding subsidiary.

89. The storage medium according to Claim 88,
wherein the funding report comprises at least one of:

----- a list of sub-invoice items included in the -----
distribution;

5 a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and
reason codes.

90. The storage medium according to Claim 67,
wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

receiving the payment;
determining an incremental funding amount;
5 funding a subsidiary corresponding to the holding
account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding
amount equals or exceed a predetermined total when
combined with a holding account amount; and
allocating the incremental funding amount to the
10 holding account amount when the incremental funding
amount is less than the predetermined total when combined
with the holding account amount.